

Minutes: ECICC Gaps and Barriers Committee (GBC)

May 2, 2008, 1:30 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

First St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Hastings, Nebraska

The Gaps and Barriers Standing Committee of the Early Childhood Interagency Coordinating Council (ECICC) met on May 2, 2008 in a regular meeting during the ECICC meeting at the First St Paul's Lutheran Church, Hastings, Nebraska. Carey Winkler and Mary Phillips co-chaired the meeting. Pam Kasl acted as secretary.

Present: Sara Johnson, Carol Puffer, Barb Jackson, Barb Schliesser, "Mike" Queen, Lynne Brehm, Shirley Pickens White, Mary Phillips, Amy Bunnell, Janet Staehr, Connie Shockley, Mark Smith, Carey Winkler, Louise Hall-Mountain, Stephanie Rau; Pam Kasl, secretary *pro tempore*.

Transportation was reported on by Lynne Brehm. Eleanor Kirkland and Lynne are co-leading a group to look at transportation policies. The group will look at how policies at different agencies can be better aligned. Recommendations will be made after they have completed their work.

Part C Annual Performance Report (APR): Barb Schliesser shared that there were few changes this year to the APR.

- WESTAT is doing the data collection and analysis for the family survey again. Masking of districts with children fewer than five is being discussed with them.
- The SPP is a five-year plan with specified indicators. Meeting the 45-day timeline will be studied over the next year. Some of the reasons this area is being flagged on file reviews is not due to non-compliance but a lack of proper documentation. Natural inclusive environments looked good and ChildFind was improved.
- The PRT self assessment indicated that some regions are mis-recording data and are getting inaccurate results.
- Joan and Amy have been working on the three-year file review process. The final year reviews are being finalized. The special education, Part B system is moving to a self assessment file review arrangement. Part C providers are interested in this format as well. Amy spoke about a Medicaid waiver review system of the supervisor inputting file review data in a computerized system that will be monitored by DHHS in Lincoln using a desk audit. Consideration is being given to building a similar system for EDN. Training will need to be a component of any system that is developed. The File Review web site is being studied to see how Part C will fit.

Results Matter: Barb Jackson shared information on Results Matter. They are ready to send out "clean up your data" e-mails with the end of the school year. High Scope.net will be transferring data to School Success in June and then will have access to do OSEP reporting. In 2010 the data will need to be reported in a format similar to the State of the Schools Report. The data is being checked for accuracy and to see how the data is being cut for determining level. It is hard to collect observational data when you don't see a child very frequently. The data is being used to show the parents and a receiving school at transition, where a child is in their progress.

Part C Regulations: It is hopeful that the Federal Part C Regulations will be released this fall. Draft regs went out last year for feedback. Having finalized regs will allow several activities to move forward.

Endowment Grants: Barb Schliesser will be reviewing the Endowment Grant applications. The grants are to aid at-risk children ages birth to three. All recipients will be notified by August. Mary Phillips shared that LPS would like to use the grant for child care centers in high schools to include additional children and expand to year-round. It would also include parenting education.

Local Gaps and Barriers: Discussion was held about how the ECICC can learn about local gaps and barriers. A simple e-mail could be sent to ask PRTs to share system level issues that they would like this group to look at. Another option would be to ask PRT members to speak about issues during the working lunch.

Other: Mark Smith shared information about a grant that is available to create a resource group for families that are underserved. It would operate like PTI for underserved families. The grant did not give much time for application and may be something to apply for later. This would be a nice resource for the state, help with ChildFind and aid families with children from birth to 21.